

Certayne

5^{yn} 8^r . 54 . 84

causes gathered together,
wherin is shewed the decaye
of Englad, only by the great
multitude of shepe, to the vt-
ter decay of household keeping,
mayntenaunce of men, dearth
of corne, and other notable
dyscommodities appo-
ued by syre olde
Prouerbes.

Prouer. 20.

A kyng that sitteth in iudge-
ment, and loketh well about
him, dyueth away all euell.

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To the Kynges moſte hono-
rable Counſell, and the
Lodes of the Parlay-
ment houſe.

THe fyrſt Article & poynt
as we do thynke, is it
great pittye (ſo the will
of God it were) that there is
no corne ynough within this
Realme of Englande, at all
tymes neceſſary to certyfy &
ſupplye the Kynges ſubiectes
for the ſpace of one yere two
or thre, yf there were no corne
ſowen in this Realme by the
ſayde ſpace.

We do ſaye that y^e Kinges
Maieſtie mercifully hearing
the peticiō of theſe his graces
poore ſubiectes maye at al ty-
mes remedy it, when it ſhall
A.ij. pleaſe

please hys maiestie, being for
a common wealth for his gra
ces subiectes, & to the greate
encrease of this noble realme
of Englande.

We saye as reason doeth
leade vs, & shepe & shepema
sters, doeth cause skatye of
corne, whiche we do thynke,
it maye be well approued, by
reason of six prouerbes, for &
yf all our luynges, and all
our commodities, were diuy
ded in partes, by reason of &
same six prouerbes, we that
be & Kynges maiestyes pooze
subiectes do lose six of our co
modities, then haue we thre
losses, whiche make nyne, by
reason of the same thre losses
we the Kynges mayestyes
subiectes do lose & third part
of

of our lyuinge, then haue we
the tenth part, which we cal
a remedy, beseeching your no-
ble grace, to remedye when
your maiestye shall please.

As touchyng the fyrste
prouerbe of the syr
we do thynke.

The more shepe the dearer is
the woll.

The more shepe the dearer is
the motton.

The more shepe the dearer is
the besse.

The more shepe the dearer is
the corne.

The more shepe the skanter
is the whit meate.

The more shepe the fewer
egges for a peny.

A.iii

In

In þe fyfth prouerbe, þe more
chepe the dearer is the wolle.
Our complaynt is for Oxford
shyre, Buckyngham shyre, &
Northampton shyre, and as
for aliother shyres, we refer
it to the playntynes.

We shal desyre you, and al
oher that reade and se the
true ententes & meanynges
of this our doinges to pardon
our ignoraunce, yet notwith
standyng we desyre you sum
what to attender the premis
ses, seinge it is doue, and put
forth, for the commoditye of
þe Kinges magesties realme,
and for the welth of his gra
ces poore subiectes.

In the sayde Oxford shyre
Buckyngham shyre & North
hampton shyre, there be ma
ny

ny men of worshyp dwelling
within the sayde thre shires.
And hath great laudes to be
ue vpon, the which we praye
to God to geue them more of,
and well to occupie it. Many
of these worshipfull men, sette
no store, nor pryse, vpon the
mayntenaunce of tyllage of
theyr landes, as before tyme
hath bene vsed, ne yether brea-
dyng nor feadyng of catle,
but many of them dooeth kepe
the most substaunce of theyr
landes, in theyr owne han-
des. And where tillage was
wont to be, now is it stored,
wyth greate vंबरment of
shepe: & they that haue great
vंबरment of shepe, muste
nedes haue greate store of
wool, and we cannot thynke

A.iiij who

who shulde make the pryse of
woll; but those þ̄ haue great
plentye of shepe. And we do
partly knowe that there be
some dwellynge within these
thre wyres, rather then they
wyl sell theyr woll at a lowe
pryse, they will kepe it a yere
or twayne, and all to make it
deare, and to kepe it a deare
pryse. And by this meanes þ̄
fyrst prouerbe to be true The
more shepe the dearer is the
woll.

In the seconde prouerbe
as we do thynke: The more
shepe, the dearer is þ̄ moton.

As by reason, the most sub-
staunce of our feadyng was
wont to be on beffe, and now
it is on motton, And so many
mouthes goith to motton,
which

which causeth mottion to be
deare.

In the thirde prouerbe as
we do thinke: The more shepe
the dearer is the beffe.

As by reason that breeding
and fedyng, is not set by a sit
hath bene in tymes past, and
where as shepe is kept vpon
the pasture groundes where
breading & fedyng of beffes
was wont to be kept: & where
as shepe is kept vpon the pa-
sture groundes, where bre-
dyng and fedyng was wont
to be kept: And now there is
nothyng kept there but mot-
ton.

The fourth prouerbe: The
more shepe, the dearer is the
corne.

By reason tyllage is not

A. v vled

bled, occupied, and maintey-
ned as it hath bene before ty-
me, but shepe kept vpon the
grounde, where tyllage was
wont to be kept and maintey-
ned.

The .v. prouerbe: The
more shepe the skanter is the
weytemeate.

By reason tyllage is not
bled, occupied and maintey-
ned nother mayntenaunce
of houses and hospitalyte,
where as catle was wont to
be fede and brede, by reason
of keepynge of catle shulde in-
crease whyt meate, and now
there is nothyng kept there
but only shepe.

The syxte prouerbe: The
more shepe the fewer egges
for a peny.

By

By reason cottages go
downe in the contre, where
as pultrye was wont to be
breaide and fedde, now there
is nothyng kept there but
shepe, which cause the egges
to be solde for fower a penny.
Thus be the syr prouerbes
true, as we do thynke desy-
rynge you to geue hearynge
vnto them, and that it may
be wel amended, for the com-
mon welthe of the Kynges
poore subiectes.

Then haue we thre losses
that maketh nyne.

The fyrst losse as we do thin-
ke, there is not so many plo-
wes bled, occupied, and main-
teyned within Oxforthshyre,
as

as was in Kyng Henry the
seuenth tyme, and sens hys
fyrste comming there lacketh
xl. plowes, euery plough was
able to kepe. vi. persōs downe
lyng and byrlyng in hys
house, the whiche draweth to
twelf score persons in Oxford
Wyre. And where y the sayde
twelf score persons were wōt
to haue meate, drynke, ray-
ment and wages, payinge
skot and lot to God, & to our
Kyng, now there is nothyng
kept there but only shepe.
Now these twelf score persons
had nede to haue liuing, whe-
ther shal they go, into North
hampton Wyre? and there is
also the lyuing of twelef score
persons losse, whether shall
then they goo? forth from
Wyre

Myre to Myre, and to be sca-
thered thus abroad, within
Kynges maiestyes Realme,
where it shall please almighty
God, and for lacke of ma-
sters, by compulsion dyuen
some of them to begge, and
some to steale.

The seconde losse as we do
thinke, that there is neuer a
plough of the. xl. plowes, but
he is able to tyll and plowe to
certifye syr persons, and eue-
ry ploughe to sell. xxx. quar-
ters of grayne by the yeare,
or els he can full yll paye, syr,
seuen, eyght poundt by the
yeare, xl. plowes. xxx. quar-
ters euery ploughe, draweth
to two hundzeth quarters in
Buckingham Myre, two hun-
deth quarters in Orforde
Myre

shyre, & two. cc. quarters in
Northampton shyre, also forthfro
shyre to shyre in certayne shy-
res within y^e Kings maiesties
Realme of Englande, what
shall the twelf two hundredeth
quarters of corne do in Or-
ford shyre: we do thynke it
wyl mainteyne the Kynges
markettes, and sustayne the
Kynges subiectes, and lyke-
wylse in Buckyngham shyre,
& also in Northampton shyre,
and so from shyre to shyre, in
certayne shyres wythin the
Kynges magesties Realme.
furthermore it is to be consy-
dered what thys twelf hun-
dredeth quarters of corne is a-
ble to do within Orford shyre,
it is able to certifie & susteyne
xv. score people by the yere
bread

byade, and drynke, & allowe
to euery person. ij. quarters
of weate, and two quarters
of malt by the yere, where as
in the fyrst the hole lyuing of
twelf score persons meate, &
drynke, and rayment, byry-
lyng & downe lyng, payinge
shot and lot to our God, and
to our Kyng. And the second
losse byead and drynke for. xv
score persons by the yere,
whiche the hole nombze dra-
weth to. v. hundreth and. xl.
persons in Oxforth shyre, so
in Buckyngham shyre, & so
lykewyle in Northampton
shyre, and so forth from shyre
to shyre wythin the Kynges
maiestyes Realme.

And yf it be as we do thike
þ there be. iiii. score plowes in
euery

every one of these thynges les
thē there was, then is there
þe luyng lost of a thousand &
iij. score persons in euerye
one of these foresayde thynges.
Thys is the seconde losse as
we do thynke and call for re-
medy for it.

The thyrd losse, as we do
thynke, we do lose in the sayd
thre thynges keepyng of hous-
hold and hospitalite & main-
tayning of tyllage and hous-
hold keepyng, we do lacke cor-
ne and also lese our cattell,
for where any housholde is
kept, there is kept kyne and
calues, and of our kyne there
commeth mylke, butter and
chease, and all this doeth su-
stayne the Kynges Maie-
sties subiectes, and for thys
we

we haue nothyng but shepe.

And furthermore, where
householdes be kept, there is
hogges, pygges and bakhon,
capons, hēnes, duckes, Eg-
ges, frute and many other cō-
modities, that is necessary &
nedefull to be had for y^e main-
tenaunce and lyuinge of the
Kynge's maiesties poore sub-
iectes to lyue by, and for that
we haue nothyng but shepe.

This is the thyrd losse.

The .i. is whiche we do cal
for remedy, and we desyre of
God and the Kynge's mai-
esty, yf it shal please his high-
nes to be so good & gracypus
vnto his poore subiectes, that
there might be in euery shyre
& hundred as many plowes
bled, occupied, and mayntey-

B

ned

ned as many households kept
as was by king Henry the se-
uenth tyme, fyrst commynge
and then vnfayned as we do
thynke we sholde haue corne
ynough, cattell ynough, and
shepe ynough, then wil shepe
and woll be in more mens hā
des, we shall haue also white
meate ynough, and all thyn-
ges necessary. And thus Je-
su preserue our dreade soue-
raigne Lorde and Kynge.

As we do thynke we haue
two losses more that we haue
not spoken: The firste losse is
for lacke of household keepyng
& mayntenaunce of tyllage,
it is great decay to artyllary:
for y do we reken that shepe-
herdes be but yll artchers.

And as we do further thike

It leseth the kings maiesty in
prouisiō for his noble houshol-
des, that is to saye in wheat,
malt, beues, mottong, beles,
hay and otes, and pultry, &
all maner suche prouisiōs, &
belongeth to hys maiestyes
housholde as we do thynke,
v. thousande markes by the
yeare with v. lest. In a tri-
al as we do thynke yf it shuld
please the Kynges maiesties
offycers to call in hys graces
purueyers, & examyne them
where they haue had within
their tyme for his graces pro-
uisiōs of his warres, & for his
maiestyes housholde: where
as there is nowe nothyng to
be gotten, for they that kepe
the sayde lādes, hath put the
foresayde landes to pastures
B.ii them

them self byeth all maner of
grayne & come to kepe they
houshold with all.

Furthermore, yf it shall
please the Kynges highnes,
and hys noble counsellor to
haue a further tryall of thys
matter, and to assure it to be
true: take al craftes mē dwel
ling in cyties & townes, day
labozers that laboꝛeth by wa
ter oꝛ by lande, cottygers &
other householders, refusyng
none, but only them y^e hath
althis aboundaunce, that is
to saye: shepe oꝛ wold masters
and inclosers, the lamentaci
ons of the Kynges maiestyes
subiectes will make any true
herted body to seke & call for
remedy, whiche we beseeche y^e
Lorde to amende. Amen.

fur.

Furthermore, as we do
thinke, this Realme doeth de
caye by thys meanes, it is to
vnderstande and knowen, &
there is in England townes
and villages to the number
of fifty thousand & bpward, &
for euery towne and byllage
take them one with an other
throughout all, there is one
plowe decayed sens the fyrste
peare of the raigne of kynge
Henry the seuenth. And in
som townes and byllages all
the hole towne decayed sens
that time, and yf there be for
euery towne and byllage one
plough decayed, sens the first
peare of the raygne of kynge
Henry the seuenth: Then is
there decayed. l. thousande
plowes and bpwarde. The

B.iiij whiche

whiche .l. thousande plowes,
euerye plough were able to
mainteine .xl. persons. That
is to saye: the man, the wyfe
and fower other in his house
lesse and more. l. thousande
plowes, syr persons to euery
plough, draweth to the nom-
ber of thre hundred thousand
persons were wont to haue
meate, drynke and rayment,
brypsing and downe lyeinge,
paying skot and lot to God, &
to the Kyng. And now they
haue nothyng, but goeth
about in England from doze
to doze, and are they? almose
for Goddes sake And because
they will not begge, some of
them doeth steale, and then
they be haged, and thus the
Realme doeth decay, and by
none

none other wayes els, as we
do thynke, beseechynge your
hyghnes of your moste noble
grace and honourable Lord-
shyppes, the premises tender-
ly considered before you in ex-
aminacion vpon y^e premises,
that we may haue a remedy
in this behalf. And we shall
dayely praye for the cōser-
uation of your highnes
and for your ful no-
ble lordshyppes.
Finis.

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